

CONFERENCES, CRITIQUES AND REFERENCES  
ON THE SUBJECT OF  
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS:  
THE COLEMAN REPORT



In response to the March 1981 draft of Public and Private Schools by James Coleman, Thomas Hoffer, and Sally Kilgore, a series of analyses of the work appeared in the form of conferences, critical papers, and news stories throughout the media. This document, containing an extensive listing of commentary on the study, may serve as a reader's guide to the literature on this subject. Included are discussions of major substantive issues, reanalyses of the basic data, and examinations of technical problems of the study as well as news stories, editorials, and other commentary. Though not exhaustive, every attempt has been made to include the most important items. Three categories have been used in this presentation: conferences, critiques, and references. In many cases, placement in a category was decided rather arbitrarily. In an effort to make this document as helpful to the reader as possible, entries in each section have been listed in chronological order. In this way, the reader can more easily see how emphasis on different topics shifted as the controversy over the Coleman study unfolded.

## I. Conferences

National Center for Education Statistics Policy Seminar. "What Do We Know About Private Schools?" Sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics in conjunction with the Horace Mann Learning Center, Department of Education, April 1981. 1/

### Speakers:

Coleman, James S., Public and Private Schools.  
Greeley, Andrew, Minority Students in Catholic Secondary Schools.

### Discussants:

Ayars, Albert	Olivas, Michael
Breneman, David W.	Page, Ellis B.
Erickson, Donald A.	Ravitch, Diane
Finn, Chester E., Jr.	Thomas, Gail

American Educational Research Association. Invited Address, Session 16.08, 1981 Annual Meeting, "Public and Private Schools," April 1981. 2/

### Speaker:

Coleman, James S., Public and Private Schools.

### Discussants:

Braddock, Jomills H. II  
Cronbach, Lee J.  
Heyns, Barbara L.

"Methodological Considerations Affecting the Credibility of Conclusions: The Instance of Three Conflicting Studies on Public and Private Schools." Conference sponsored by the National Institute of Education, Department of Education, July 1981. 3/

### Chair:

Antonoplos, Daniel P.

### Participants:

Abramowitz, Susan	Duran, Richard	Migdail, Sherry
Baker, Eva	Forbes, Roy	Miller-Jones, Dalton
Boruch, Robert	Gephart, William J.	Modu, Chris
Braddock, Jomills H. II	Hannaway, Jane	Olneck, Michael
Bryk, Anthony	Kilgore, Sally	Porter, Andrew
Coleman, James S.	Light, Richard	Scriven, Michael
Cooley, William	Linn, Robert	Searls, Donald
	Madow, William	Walberg, Herbert

1/ Copies of transcript available from Educational Resources Information Center, Central ERIC, National Institute of Education, Washington, D.C. 20208.

2/ Tape recording of session available from SPEEDY TAPE, PO Box 39053, Denver, Colorado 80239.

3/ For information on availability of tape recording or transcript of conference, contact Dr. Daniel P. Antonoplos, National Institute of Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20208.

"Report of the Meeting of a Panel to Review the Statistical Methodology of the Report Public and Private Schools." Unpublished report. Committee on National Statistics, National Academy of Sciences (Washington, D.C.), July 1981 (meeting), September 1981 (report). 4/

Moderator: Olkin, Ingram

Review panel:

Fienberg, Stephen E.  
Hansen, Morris H.  
Jones, Lyle V.

Madow, William G.  
Rubin, Donald B.  
Singer, Burton H.

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4/ Report available from Statistical Information Office, National Center for Education Statistics, 1001 Presidential Building, 400 Maryland Ave., SW., Washington, D.C. 20202.

## II. Critiques

"Coleman Report on Public and Private Schools: The Draft Summary and Eight Critiques," Educational Research Service (Arlington, Va.), School Research Forum, April 1981.

Commentators:

Campbell, Donald  
Crain, Robert L.  
Kirst, Michael W.  
Klitgaard, Robert

Krathwohl, David  
Murnane, Richard J.  
Ravitch, Diane  
Thomson, Scott D.

Goldberger, Arthur S., "Coleman Goes Private (in Public)," Unpublished paper (draft), Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, Ca. (May 1981).

Ravitch, Diane, "The Meaning of the New Coleman Report," Phi Delta Kappan 62 (June 1981), pp. 718-720.

Olneck, Michael, "Are Private Schools Better Than Public Schools?: A Critique of the Coleman Report," University of Wisconsin-Madison, Institute for Research on Poverty, Focus 5 (Summer 1981), pp. 1-19.

Stedman, James B., Stephen P. Chilton, and K. Forbis Jordan, "An Analysis of Public and Private Schools (The New Coleman Report)," LB 1603, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (August 1981).

Page, Ellis B. and Timothy Z. Keith, "Effects of U.S. Private Schools: A Technical Analysis of Two Recent Claims," Educational Researcher 10 (August/September 1981), pp. 7-17.

Coleman, James S., "Response to Page and Keith," Educational Researcher 10 (August/September 1981), pp. 18-20.

Page, Ellis B., "The Media, Technical Analysis, and the Data Feast: A Response to Coleman," Educational Researcher 10 (August/September 1981), pp. 21-23.

Caldwell, Peggy, "Walking the Perilous Line Between Research and Politics," Education Week 1 (September 7, 1981), p. 7.

Finn, Chester E., Jr., "Trashing the Coleman Report," Education Week 1 (September 7, 1981), p. 24.

Noell, Jay, "The Impact of Private Schools When Self-Selection Is Controlled: A Critique of Coleman's Public and Private Schools," Unpublished paper, Office of Planning, Budget, and Evaluation, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. (September 1981).

Morris, Lorenzo, "'What Do We Know About Private Schools': A Critical Analysis of the NCES Seminar on the Coleman Report." Institute for the Study of Educational Policy (Howard University, Washington, D.C.), ISEP Monitor, September 1981.

Husen, Torsten, "Coleman II - Another Case of Politics and the Professors," Change 13 (September 1981), pp. 11-12.

Breneman, David W., "Coleman II and the Credibility of Social Science Research," Change 13 (September 1981), p. 13.

Erickson, Donald A., "The Superior Social Climate of Private Schools," Momentum 11 (October 1981), pp. 4-8.

Elford, George, "Self Selection: First a Flaw, Then a Finding," Momentum 11 (October 1981), pp. 8-10.

Sweet, David, "School Effectiveness and Parental Choice of Public and Private Schools," Momentum 11 (October 1981), pp. 11-13.

Coleman, James S., "Quality and Equality in American Education: Public and Catholic Schools," Phi Delta Kappan 63 (November 1981), pp. 159-164.

Four Responses to Coleman, Phi Delta Kappan 63 (November 1981), pp. 164-168.

Kirst, Michael W., "The Rationale for Public Schools."

Braddock, Jomills H. II, "Quality and Equality: Compatible or Incompatible Goals?"

Warner, Carolyn, "Choice Is the Central Issue."

Smith, Donald H., "Finding Beacons of Success."

"Report Analysis, Public and Private Schools," Harvard Educational Review 51 (November 1981), pp. 483-545. Commentary by:

Murnane, Richard J., "Evidence, Analysis, and Unanswered Questions."

Braddock, Jomills H. II. "The Issue Is Still Equality of Educational Opportunity."

Bryk, Anthony S. "Disciplined Inquiry or Policy Argument?"

Finn, Chester E., Jr., "Why Public and Private Schools Matter."

Guthrie, James W. and Ami Zusman, "Unasked Questions."

Heyns, Barbara L. "Policy Implications of the Public and Private School Debates."

Coleman, James S., Thomas Hoffer, and Sally Kilgore, "Questions and Answers: Our Response."

Goldberger, Arthur S., and Glen G. Cain, "The Causal Analysis of Cognitive Outcomes in the Coleman Report," University of Wisconsin-Madison, Institute for Research on Poverty, Discussion Papers, DP#682-81 (December 1981).

James, David R., "Responses to Page and Keith, and Coleman," Letter to the Editor, Educational Researcher 11 (January 1982), pp. 24-25.

Travers, Robert M. W., "Responses to Page and Keith, and Coleman," Letter to the Editor, Educational Researcher 11 (January 1982), p. 25.

Sociology of Education, special issue on Public and Private Schools. Scheduled for April 1982.

### III. References

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- Morgan, Dan, "Fuss over Public vs. Private Schools is Fueled by Federal Studies," The Washington Post, April 4, 1981.
- Cohen, Muriel, "Educators Rap Study of Schools," The Boston Globe, April 6, 1981.
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- "Private Schools Better than Public Schools, Study Says," Education Daily, April 6, 1981.
- "Public Schools, Private Schools," The Washington Post, April 7, 1981.
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Fiske, Edward B., "New School Dispute Stirred by Coleman," The New York Times, April 12, 1981.

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Williams, Dennis A., with Patricia King, "Private Schools Win a Public Vote," Newsweek, April 13, 1981.

"Coleman II: Schools That Work," The Sun, (Baltimore, Md.), April 13, 1981.

Middleton, Lorenzo, "Coleman Study Says Private Schooling Superior to Public; Social Scientists Attack His Findings," The Chronicle of Higher Education, April 13, 1981.

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Ravitch, Diane, "The Way to Make Public Schools Good," The Washington Post, April 19, 1981.

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